

BLACK LINES

December 2001, Vol. 6, No. 11 Free/\$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED

on the DOWN LOW

BLACKlines writers tackle
the new phenomenon ...

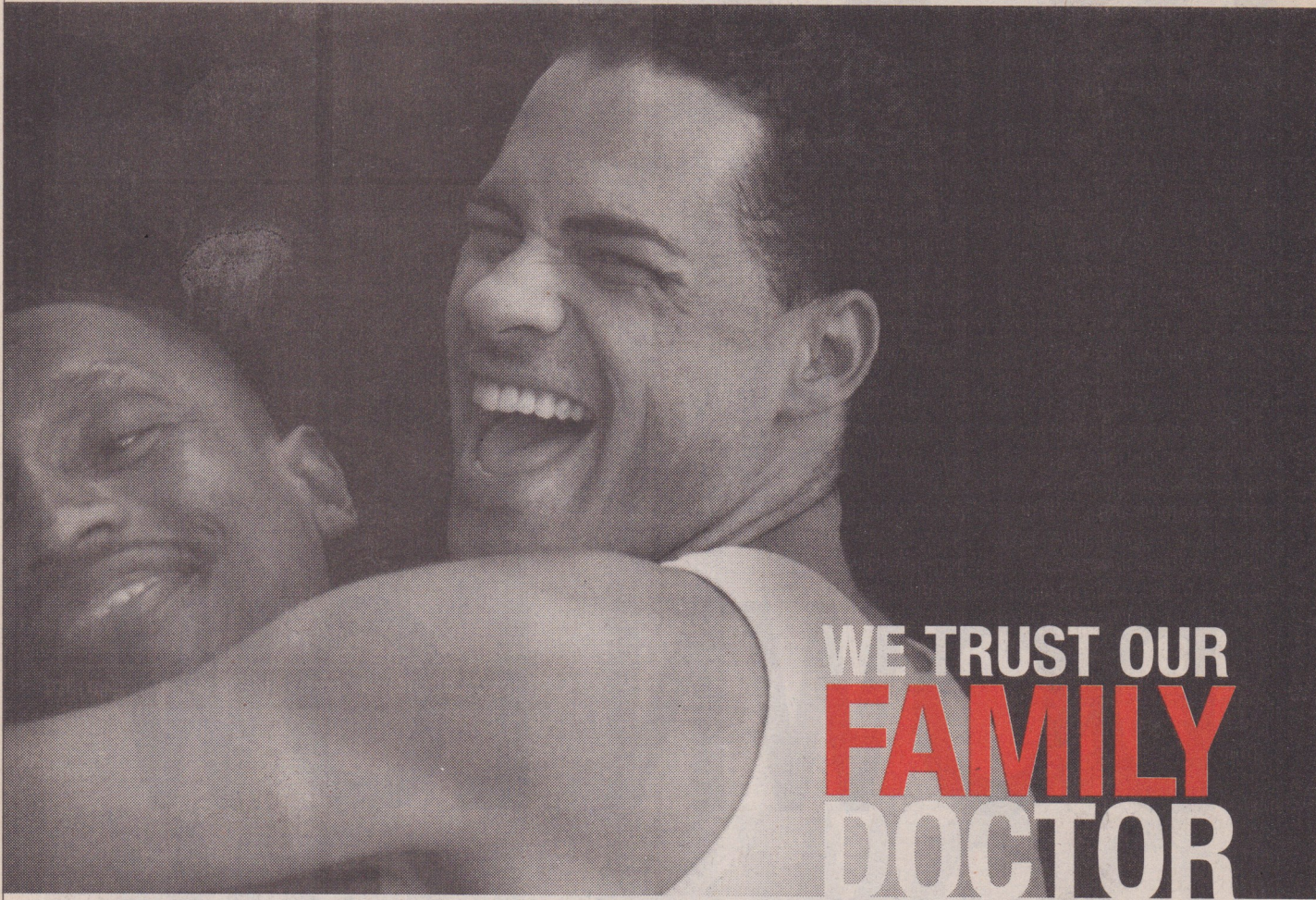
Gay, Bi, Straight ...
or on the Down Low (DL)

Published by Lambda Publications, publishers of
WINDY CITY TIMES, NIGHTLINES, EN LA VIDA, OUT! GUIDE.

Windy City Radio, Sundays, 10:30 p.m.-midnight WCKG, 105.9 FM

www.windycityvoices.com or www.wctimes.com

Mark and Tony, South Shore



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PHOTO: TOM GEORGE

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BLACKlines

Dec. 2001

Volume 6, Number 11

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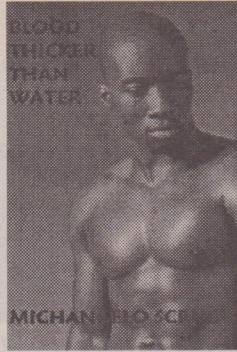
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BLOOD
THICKER
THAN
WATER

MICHAELLO SCRUGGS



Footprint
Media
Cleveland, Ohio

If the picture itself is enough to make your mouth water, then you'll really love what's inside! Michangelo Scruggs, author of *The Men's Room*, has gone a step further to give a tale of sibling rivalry. Two fraternal twins, Ruth and Oz hate each other: Ruth's hatred is directed toward Oz's homosexuality, and Oz hates his sister because of the way that she treats him. After spending years apart, a turn of horrid events finds Ruth fighting for her life and Oz risking his life to save Ruth!

Blood Thicker Than Water
By Michangelo Scruggs

Michangelo Scruggs,
The Author

Take it home for the holidays!
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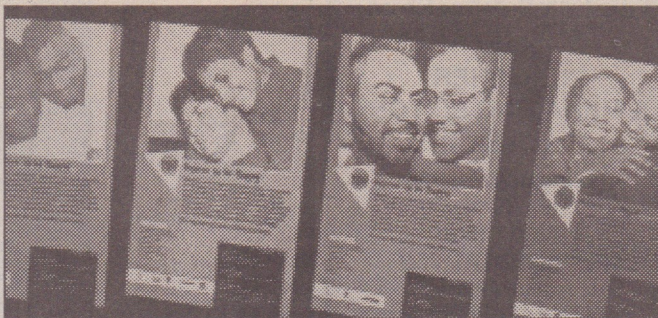
Monday, Dec. 31 • 9pm – 4am
8220 S. Western • Ample Parking

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

A recent grant from the Chicago Foundation for Women will be used to create a Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign for African American and Latina women.

Heartland Alliance's Women's Program together with Howard Brown Health Center, Horizons Community Services, and Metropolitan YWCA of Chicago unveiled the details of their program at a press conference Oct. 25.

In the year 2000, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) released its fifth annual report on domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) relationships. There were 4,048 cases of domestic violence documented in the 2000 report, which represented a 29.7% increase from the 3,120 cases reported in 1999. Of the victims in the 4,048 cases documented by NCAVP 46.8% were female, 15.1% were Latina/o and 11.1% were African American. Of the 4,048 cases, Chicago reported a total of



Photos for the domestic-violence campaign by Rosalind Glanton

109 victims of whom 54% were female, 2% identified as transgender, 37% were African American and 10% were Latina/o.

The Women's Program is a program of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, an anti-poverty, human rights organization that provides housing, healthcare and human services to more than 55,000 impoverished Chicagoans and people in crisis every year.

OLDHAM AT HORIZONS

by Karen Hawkins

The bandying about of personnel between the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and the city of Chicago continued as Chicago's Horizons Community Services announced that Frank Oldham, Jr. will take the helm as its new

executive director.

Oldham returns from the L.A. Center, where he has served as managing director since leaving Chicago in February. Before his departure he was the assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, heading up the division of STD/HIV/AIDS.

"This is a dream come true to be able to return to Chicago and work for the LGBT community," Oldham said in a release.

He could not be reached for further comment by press time.

Oldham's appointment comes less than two weeks after the departure of Horizons Executive Director Roger Doughty. In a press release dated Oct. 24, Horizons announced that Doughty was leaving, citing disagreements between him and the board of directors. His leaving came one month after the noisy exit of Youth Program Director Karen Hutt, who was fired on Sept. 26. Hutt has claimed that her firing was in retaliation for a racial discrimination complaint she filed against

Horizons with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations in August. Hutt leveled allegations of discrimination at Horizons management, including Doughty.

Horizons has seen a number of staffing shake-ups in recent months, and Hutt has claimed that the agency lost or fired 14 staffers in 12 and a half months.

Oldham, during his tenure with the CDPH, was widely regarded as a strong, unifying force, bringing representatives of the city's many AIDS/HIV service organizations together at the same table for the first time.

In the Horizons release, Oldham lists a diverse range of activists and officials he anticipates re-

connecting with.

"I am honored and looking forward to joining with leaders and friends like Michael Bauer, Renae Ogletree, Mark Ishaug, Lora Branch, Keith Waterbrook, Mary Morten, Derrick Hicks, Tico Valle, Greg Harris and the entire leadership of Horizons as well as the Center on Halsted Steering Committee," he said. "Together with old and new friends, I envision working towards a future that is a multicultural and multiethnic lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community ... symbolized by cutting-edge programs and services and the Center on Halsted."

Oldham added, "Chicago is a unique place. We are fortunate to have a supportive and accessible mayor. I look forward to reengaging with Mayor Daley and his staff."

Denise C. Foy, president of the board, referred to Oldham's reputation as a coalition builder in her statement, saying, "Frank's passion for community building is most impressive. Our focus is clear; we are committed to providing the best programs and services that meet the needs of the community. We look forward to Frank's vision and leadership in that regard."

Oldham takes over an agency poised to steward the city's Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Horizons has begun collecting community input about plans for the Center, holding invitation-only meetings and focus groups.

The link between the L.A. Center and Chicago is a strong one. Doughty served there before joining Horizons, as did Keith Waterbrook,

who is the new executive director of Howard

Brown Health Center. Diane Goodwin served in the communications departments both in L.A. and at HBHC.

Oldham is set to take over his new post on Dec. 3. His past appointments include posts with the New York City Department of Health, the HIV/AIDS division of Washington, D.C., the Gay Men's Health Crisis and the Private Industry Council of New York City.

Jamie Weinhold Collier, Horizons' director of finance and operations, is serving as interim executive director until Oldham arrives.



Oldham

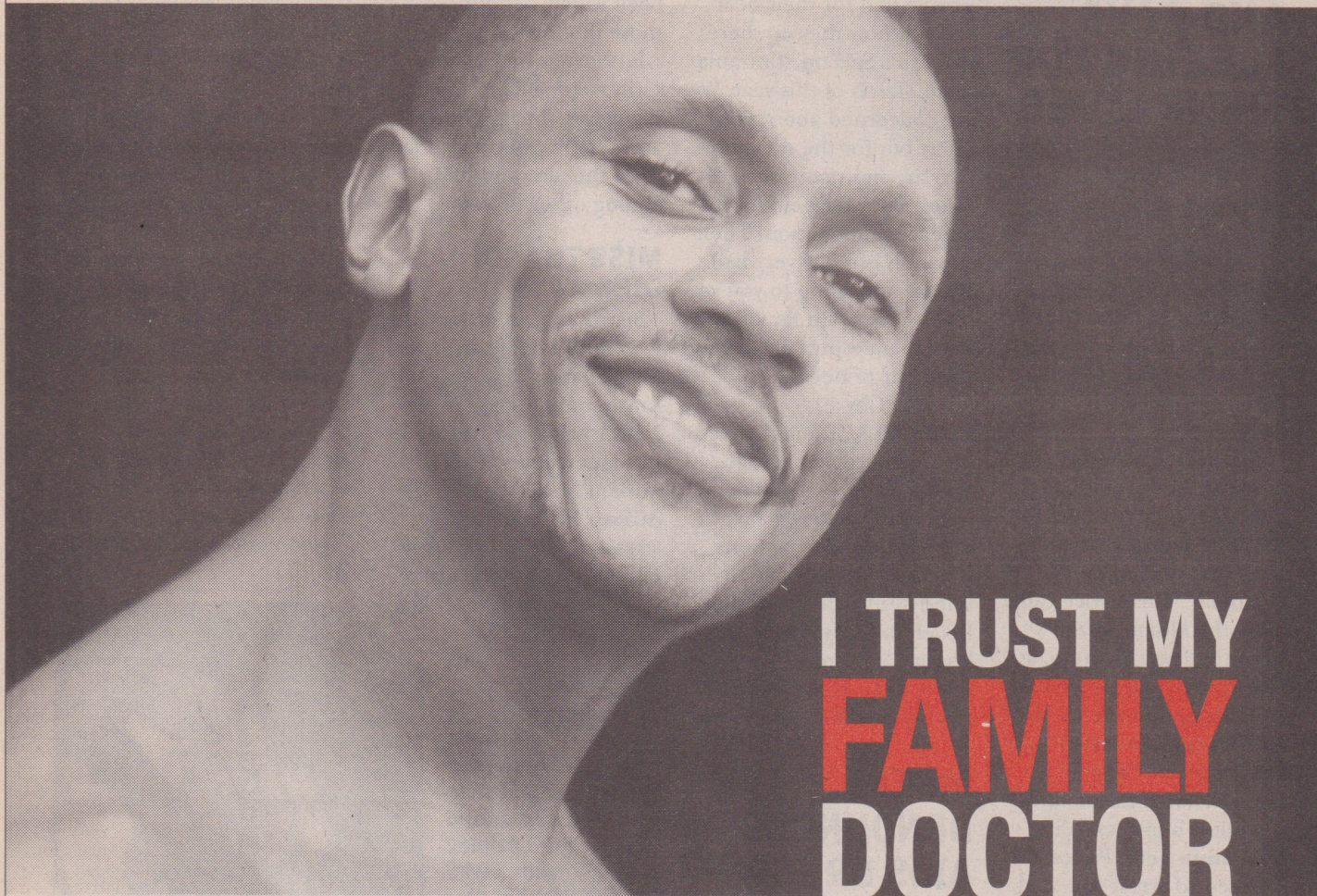
I want to thank everyone who made Nov. 3, 2001 a wonderful and most singular event in my life with your birthday wishes, cards, gifts and attendance at my birthday party.

You have all made my 59th birthday one that will remain in my heart as the happiest that I have ever experienced.

Thank you, Mamie and Dusty, for providing so many of us with a warm and beautiful place and an incredible staff, to just be us.

From my heart, Jackie

Mark, South Shore



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PHOTO: TOM GEORGE

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NAMIBIAN LESBIANS AND GAYS FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES

by Michelle Marie
Bonnarens

Namibia has been no easy place for many of its citizens for the past couple of years, but since this past March its LGBT citizens have been fleeing for their lives.

The horror reports began last year. Newly graduated police officers were urged to "eliminate" gays and lesbians "from the face of Namibia." This advice came from the Home Affairs Minister, Jerry Ekandjo, as reported by state television.

His remarks were clarified by Namibia's President, Sam Nujoma. "The Republic of Namibia does not allow homosexuality, lesbianism here. Police are ordered to arrest you, and deport you and imprison you," he told University of Namibia students on March 19 of this year.

Given the desolate human-rights situation in the country, where torture and arbitrary arrests are frequently chosen methods of governing, getting out of the line of fire would be

anyone's rational reaction.

Amnesty International-Tanzania reports that "these people fled for their dear life and now they are here in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania since March of this year. We are concerned about their safety but for the meantime they are in urgent need of relief. They have no food and accommodation. Their situation is really very bad. We are appealing to you so that we may join hands and help them especially during this hour of need."

Windy City Times/BLACKlines has set up an emergency refugee fund and urges its readers to help in whatever way they can. Send donations (checks only) payable to Windy City Times Namibia Relief Fund, and send to Windy City Times, Namibia Fund, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657.

MBEKI DENOUNCES AIDS DRUGS

South African President Thabo Mbeki said Oct. 24 that anti-HIV drugs are as bad as AIDS itself.

"Anti-retrovirals are becoming as dangerous to health as the disease they are supposed to treat," he told the National Assembly.

Based on personal research on the Internet,

Mbeki repeatedly has questioned whether HIV is even the cause of AIDS. He has been widely denounced for those utterances.

HIV drugs have a host of serious side effects, including elevated triglycerides and removal of normal fat from the face and limbs, among other problems.

MISS THANDI DIES AT 33

South African artist Vuyo Raymond Matinyana, a.k.a. Miss Thandi, died in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Nov. 14. With his impersonations of Miriam Makeba and other African stars, Matinyana attracted big audiences in Europe and South Africa,

where he was born in 1968.

Matinyana launched several bands in The Netherlands as well as the Afro Vibe Foundation promoting cultural exchange between South Africa and The Netherlands and giving financial support to a group of students in the Eastern Cape. South African dancer and long-time friend Gregory Maqoma dedicated the premiere of his latest work at the Netherlands Dance Festival to his friend.

Matinyana, who was rushed into hospital the day before he passed away, leaves behind his partner, mother, sister and brother. Matinyana will be buried in his hometown Port Alfred Dec. 1.

Jackie
Anderson
and friends
celebrated
her birthday
with a wild
party at Star
Gaze. Pics
by Tracy
Baim



Kevin's Room wins honors

The Chicago film about Black gays and HIV/AIDS, Kevin's Room, has made history in Oakland, Calif.— at The Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame (www.bfhfinc.org).

This is the first time a project has won two First Place awards—First Place in Television Special and First Place in Health. The film will screen in Oakland on Dec. 1 and the awards ceremony is that same evening.

Kevin's Room, by Lora Branch and atrring many GLBT local actors, was accepted into the Atlanta G&L Film Festival (www.outonfilm.com) and screened Nov. 10.

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Lez Chat

***Thursday, December 13, 7:00pm
Butch/Femme !!!!***

***Social Justice Forum
No Programming for December***

***Volunteer Orientation
Thursday, December 20, 7:00pm***

***"Xpressions of You" Youth Drop-In
Friday, December 21, 7:00pm-10:00pm***

***40 Plus Women's Program
"Forty Funky Fun II"
Affinity's Holiday Potluck Celebration!!
Friday, December 14, 7:00pm-11:00pm
Open To All!!!***

***Food, Music, Games, Contests!!!
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***Visit our website at:
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Special Events

Game Night is Back!!!

***Friday, December 7, 7:00pm-10:00pm
Spades, Bingo, Darts and Board Games
Soul Food Dinners will be available
\$2.00 Admission***

***Annual Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 15, 12:00pm-6:00pm
Interested vendors call:
773-324-0377 for application***

***Affinity's "Take Charge" Study
Health Promotion Campaign
Women who are interested in participating
Please contact: Lyssa Menard
at 773-834-4413***

***Healthy Woman Committee
Steppin' Dance Class &
Walkin' with the Gurls
New scheduling will begin in January 2002
Watch for details !!***

***From all of us at Affinity
Have a safe and happy holiday!!***

***Email us at:
affinity95@aol.com***

CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 29

AIDS Pastoral Care Network Tree of Life 2001 reception, (773) 334-5333

Temptations B96 Night: Party with B96 personalities; chances to win merchandise and tix to see Alicia Keys in a B96 show at the Aric Crown Thtr. 8-10 p.m., 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, (847) 455-0008

Friday, Nov. 30

Temptations Get Your Freak On Friday dance party, with DJ Hybrid, drink specials and 4 sexy women dancers. Also, sign up to win a Bud-sponsored trip to St. Croix, with the winner announced on Windy City Radio December 9th. 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, (847) 455-0008, www.temptationsnightclub.com

Saturday, Dec. 1

Bailiwick Thtr Bailiwick's Lesbian Thtr Initiative presents an evening of singing, dancing, acting, comedy and spoken word poetry, all by lesbians and all to raise money to create more lesbian theater at Bailiwick in the future. Performers include Elon Cameron, Chris Covell, Abby McEnany, Lisa Alvarado, RoiAnn Phillips and many others. 7:30 p.m., tonight and tomorrow, 1229 W. Belmont, (773) 883-1090

Chgo Eagle Hot cigar night with WCT's own Sukie de la Croix; also, sign up to win a Bud-sponsored trip to St. Croix, with the winner announced on Windy City Radio. 11 p.m., (773) 728-0050

A Different Voice Productions Shine light into the dark winter months at Solstice, a concert of diverse music from many seasonal traditions. This is the inaugural concert of One Voice Chicago, a new mixed chorus of 35 voices, along with its women's chamber ensemble. Tickets at Women & Children First, Unabridged, and in Oak Park at Barbara's, Val's Halla and Border's. 8 p.m., \$15-\$25 (sliding scale), First United Methodist Church (Chicago Temple), 77 W. Washington, (708) 386-6551

Mountain Moving Coffee House for Womyn and Children Women's music legend Ferron performs. 7:30 p.m., Summerdale Community Church, 1700 W. Farragut, (312) 409-0276

Vida/SIDA Community Walk for AIDS Awareness begins at the corner of Division and Western and ends at Pueblo Sin Fronteras community center with music and a community discussion about HIV/AIDS issues. 1:30-3 p.m., (773) 278-6737

Windy City Radio Live taping of this week's show in the window of the Brown Elephant resale store, featuring Amy Matheny, Jim Bennett, Gregg Shapiro, Karen Hawkins, Mary Morten, a display of several Names Quilt panels, and giveaways and special prizes. Also featuring special guests Christopher Brown (new Chicago AIDS Asst. Commissioner), Keith Waterbrook (Exec. Director, Howard Brown) and Jessica Halem (comedian and Exec. Director of LCCP). Noon-2 p.m., 3651 N. Halsted, (773) 871-7610

Sunday, Dec. 2

Bailiwick Thtr Bailiwick's Lesbian Thtr

Initiative presents an evening of singing, dancing, acting, comedy and spoken word poetry, all by lesbians and all to raise money to create more lesbian theater at Bailiwick in the future.

Performers include Elon Cameron, Chris Covell, Abby McEnany, Lisa Alvarado, RoiAnn Phillips and many others. 7:30 p.m., 1229 W. Belmont, (773) 883-1090, www.bailiwick.org

Maple Park United Methodist Church AIDS Awareness Sunday Worship and Memorial Service at this African-American congregation. 11 a.m., 1225 W. 117th, (773) 928-5220

Open Hand Chgo Holiday Brunch 2001—A Three Chorus Meal, Four Seasons Hotel, (773) 665-1000

Women of All Colors/Cultures Together (WACT) Monthly brunch at a member's house on the south side; Noon, (773) 324-6103

Monday, Dec. 3

Apollo Thtr A Time for Love, a benefit for the Red Cross featuring performances by Linda Clifford, Hollis Resnick, Alexandra Billings, Beckie Menzie, Honey West, Nan Mason and many, many more. 8 p.m., \$35, 2540 N. Lincoln, (773) 935-6100

OPALGA Join this Oak Park GLBT association for their annual holiday party at Vivaldi Trattoria Restaurant, with yummy food and a cash bar. 7-11 p.m., \$15/\$20, 144 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park, (708) 848-0273, www.opalga.org

Tuesday, Dec. 4

BUNGALO Monthly meeting of the Berwyn United Neighborhood Gay and Lesbian Organization, all are welcome. 7 p.m., Berwyn Public Library, 2701 S. Harlem, Berwyn, (708) 216-9723, www.bungalo.org

Personal PAC 8th Annual Awards Luncheon, with guest speaker Kathy Najimy, and presentation of a lifetime achievement award to Gloria Steinem. VIP reception, 11 a.m., luncheon and awards presentation at noon, Palmer House Hilton, (312) 422-0005

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Horizons The Color Triangle Coalition presents a Multicultural Holiday Open House to celebrate winter holidays with food and festivities, and to build support and inspiration for anti-racist activism in and around Chicago. 6-8 p.m., 961 W. Montana, (773) 472-6469, ext. 406

Old Town School Poet and author Marvin Tate hosts Voices of a New Black Millennium, a weekly showcase exploring Black music for the 21st century. Tonight, Nouveau Soul Night, featuring Since Birth, with Liberian-born songstress Whamaj and multi-instrumentalist wizard Tunji; also Ruben Waters Loves you with Mark William Johnson. 8:30 p.m., \$3, 4544 N. Lincoln, (773) 728-6000

Thursday, Dec. 6

Affinity Game Night returns; join the women of Affinity for spades, bingo, darts and board games. Soul food dinners will be available. 7-10 p.m., \$2, 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com

AIDS Foundation of Chgo 8th Annual All the Trimmings holiday party, Merchandise Mart north lobby (Kinzie St. entrance), (312) 922-2322

Friday, Dec. 7

Buddies' Last chance to sign up to win a Bud-sponsored trip to St. Croix, with the winner announced on Windy City Radio on Sunday, December 9th. 9 p.m., 3301 N. Clark, (773) 477-4066

Chgo Gay Men's Chorus CGMC presents Gonna Find Out Who's Naughty and Nice, a compendium of their greatest holiday hits, tonight and tomorrow. Tonight, 8 p.m., tomorrow, 5 & 8:30 p.m., Athenaeum Thtr, 2936 N. Southport, (773) 275-7294

Temptations Looking to meet a sexy cop or GI? Always wanted to be a firefighter, nurse or naughty schoolgirl? Come to Temptations first annual Women's Uniform Party, 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, (847) 455-0008

Saturday, Dec. 8

Annex 3 Snowball 2001, a party to benefit Gerber/Hart Library, sponsored by the Royal Imperial Sovereign Barony of the Windy City, a group of drag performers who raise money for charity. Performances by members of the Barony (with tips donated to Gerber/Hart), and a raffle at intermission. 10 p.m., \$3, 3160 N. Clark, (773) 334-3296

House of Blues Outspoken lesbian bassist, singer and spoken word artist Me'Shell NdegeOcello performs. 9 p.m., 329 N. Dearborn, (312) 923-2000

Sunday, Dec. 9

Lakeside Pride Concert Band Peace on Earth, Lakeside Pride's 3rd Annual Sleigh Ride holiday concert, with a special guest appearance by the Broadway United Methodist Choir. 7 p.m., \$10, Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence, (773) 381-6693

Women & Children First Studs Terkel reads from his new book, Will the Circle Be Unbroken: Reflections on Death, Rebirth and Hunger for a Faith. 4 p.m., 5233 N. Clark

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Old Town School Poet and author Marvin Tate hosts Voices of a New Black Millennium, a weekly showcase exploring Black music for the 21st century. Tonight, Classical/Jazz Night, with pianist Audra Wilson and friends from the Dorolyn Academy of Music in Oak Park. 8:30 p.m., \$3, 4544 N. Lincoln, (773) 728-6000, www.oldtownschool.com

Thursday, Dec. 13

Affinity Lez Chat: tonight's topic is Butch/Femme. 7 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com, www.affinity95.org

Friday, Dec. 14

Affinity 40 Plus Women's Program presents Forts Funky Fun II, a holiday potluck celebration with food, music, games and contests. Bring a canned food item for admission. 7-11 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com

Windy City Performing Arts Join Windy City Gay Chorus, Unison and Windy City Slickers for their 23rd annual holiday concert Do You Sing What We Sing?: Don We Now XXIII, with a special guest appearance by the Lakeside Pride Brass, tonight through Sunday, Dec. 16th. Saturday at 8 p.m. at Temple Emanuel, 5959 N. Sheridan.

\$15-\$24, (773) 404-9242

WTTW Channel 11 Yes I Am: Image Union Comes Out of the Closet presents Home for Christmas and Summer in My Veins, two short films about individuals telling their families they are gay. 11 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Apostolic Church of God Christmas Glory, a musical celebration starring gospel greats Ce Ce Winans and Donnie McClurkin and the Emmy-nominated Apostolic Church of God Choir. The concert is free and will be videotaped for broadcast on Xmas day on WFLD/FOX-TV. 8 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.; seating is first come, first served), 6320 S. Dorchester, (773) 667-1500

Affinity Affinity's annual Holiday Bazaar. noon-6 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377

Harold Washington Library It's a She Thang! a night of comedy with Suzanne Westenhoefer, Marga Gomez and Jessica Halem, with a portion of the proceeds going to LCCP. (This event was rescheduled from September 15th.) 7 p.m., \$30, 400 S. State, (773) 233-1207

Sunday, Dec. 16

Circuit Minority Outreach Intervention Project presents Soul & Salsa V: Diva. . . Holiday Blue, with appearances by Chicago's premier female entertainers. \$10, 3641 N. Halsted, (312) 986-0661

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Kwanzaa Celebration with music, entertainment and a Kwanzaa libation ceremony. Bring a dish to pass. 6-9 p.m., 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, (414) 964-5508, #1, kumbaproductions01@yahoo.com

WTTW Channel 11 December's edition of In the Life airs tonight at midnight, featuring segments on gay New York Fire Dept. chaplain Mychal Judge; the gay and lesbian parenting boom, including a visit to COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere); and a view of the deaf GLBT community

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Old Town School Poet and author Marvin Tate hosts Voices of a New Black Millennium, a weekly showcase exploring Black music for the 21st century. Tonight, Pure Funk Night featuring Fat Time, a sextet dedicated to reviving a mix of 70s-style incendiary funk and soul-on-ice ballads. 8:30 p.m., \$3, 4544 N. Lincoln, (773) 728-6000

Thursday, Dec. 20

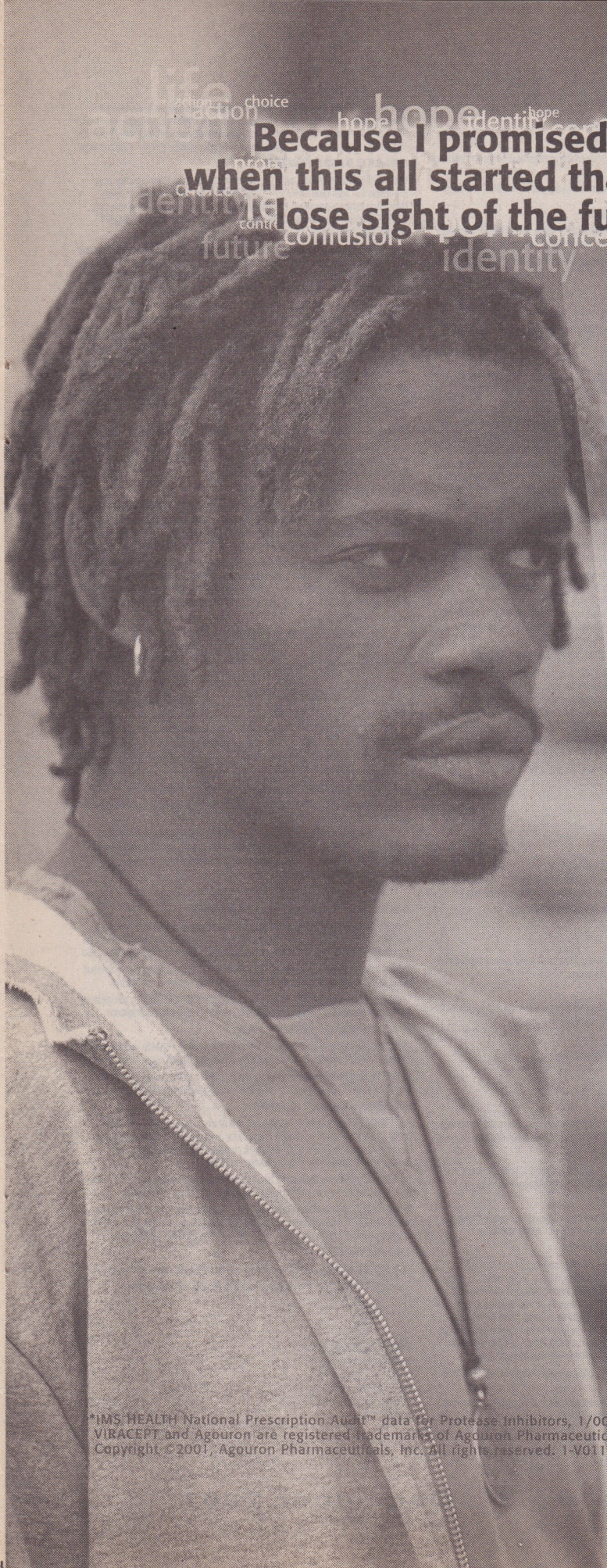
Affinity Volunteer orientation. 7 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com

Friday, Dec. 21

Affinity Xpressions of You youth drop-in night. 7-10 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, lower level, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com, www.affinity95.org

Monday, Dec. 31

Cozy Cat Productions New Year's Eve celebration exclusively for the ladies, with lavish buffet, champagne toast and music by DJ Drell. 9 p.m.-4 a.m., \$25/person, \$45/couple, 8220 S. Western, (312) 941-3763



**Because I promised myself
when this all started that I'd never
lose sight of the future.**

Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
A Pfizer Company



VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (Vi-*ra*-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4⁺ cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been

due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. **Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder.** Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. **Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.**

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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La Jolla, California, 92037, USA
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L203-0001 PPI
Rev. 01/25/01

Theatre and Performance:

**** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content or interest
BBBB Black interest

BBBBAli Congo Square Thtr presents this journey through the life of Muhammad Ali, as seen through the eyes of both his younger and older selves. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, Sun 3 pm, thru Dec 15. \$20, Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W Chicago, 773 913-5808, www.congosquaretheatre.org

BBBBBronzeville Pegasus Players present David Barr's look at the spirit and ancestry of this south side neighborhood, as seen through the eyes of three generations of a family. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 16. \$16-\$19, O'Rourke Center, Truman College, 773 878-9761

******Clearing Hedges** Mary-Arrchie Thtr presents Jennifer Barclay's one-woman show about the life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias, fiery-spirited early 20th century golfer and co-founder of the LPGA, who blazed a trail toward gender equity in sports. Mon-Tues, 8 pm, thru Dec 18. \$10, Angel Island, 773 871-0442

******The Coarse Acting Show** Shakespeare's

Motley Crew presents five parodies of classic theater, including spoofs of works by Chekhov, Noel Coward, and the Bard himself. Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 16. \$15, Athenaeum Thtr, 2936 N Southport, 312 902-1500, www.shakespearemotley.org

BBBBThe Jackie Wilson Story (My Heart is Crying, Crying...) The rise and fall of the singer who took us "Higher and Higher". Thurs, 7 pm, Sat, 3 pm, and Sun, 7:30 pm, thru Jan 6. \$40, Black Ensemble Thtr, 4520 N Beacon, 773 769-4451

******The Laramie Project** Next Thtr presents this Chicago premiere of Moisés Kaufman's play based on interviews with the citizens of Laramie, Wyoming, in the wake of the murder of Matthew Shepard. Fri, 8 pm, Sat, 4 & 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 16. \$20-\$28, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, 847 475-1875

******Late Nite Catechism** Sister, the wise-cracking, lovable nun created by Chicagoans Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, rules over a traditional 1960s catechism classroom, tickling not only those who went thru parochial school but anyone ever taught by an authoritative figure. Eighth year running for this international hit. Wed, 2 pm, Fri, 8 pm, Sat, 5 & 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, open run. \$28, Royal

George Thtr, 312 988-9000

BBBBLove Child Teenage mothers ShaWanda, DaWanda, TaWanda and LaWanda meet on their first days at a no-holds-barred parenting workshop in Luther Goins' biting comedy/drama about the cycle of teenage pregnancy and illiteracy. Fri-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 30. \$20, Chicago Thtr Co, 500 E 67th St, 773 493-5360

******Naked Boys Singing** Eight men throw costumes and caution to the wind, in this new musical that celebrates gratuitous nudity. Part of Pride 2001, Bailiwick Rep's festival of LGBT thtr. Thurs-Fri, 8 pm, Sat, 7:30 & 10 pm, Sun, 8 pm, thru Dec 2. \$30, Bailiwick Arts Ctr, 1229 W Belmont, 773 883-1090, www.bailiwick.org

******Orpheus Descending** The Artistic Home presents Tennessee Williams' classic, a powerful and eloquent attack on intolerance. Fri-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 7 pm, thru Dec 23. \$15, 1420 W Irving Park. 773 404-1100, www.ticketweb.com

BBBBOthello Shakespeare's classic tale of deceit, jealousy and revenge. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 7 pm, thru Dec 17. \$15-\$18, Journeymen Thtr, 3915 N Janssen, 773 857-5395, www.thejourneymen.org

BBBBThe Other Cinderella In Jackie Wilson's classic musical, the other

Cinderella was born in the projects, her brothers are from the 'hood, and her Fairy Godmama is from Jamaica. Fri-Sat, 8 pm, and Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 31. \$33, Black Ensemble Thtr, 773 769-4451

BBBBWaiting for Godot Excaliber Shakespeare Co presents Samuel Beckett's tragi-comedy, in which two homeless vagabonds, Vladimir and Estragon, await the arrival of the mysterious Mr. Godot. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, Sun 2 pm, thru Dec 30. \$12-\$15, Harrison Street Studio Thtr, 208 W Harrison, Oak Park, 773 533-0285

DANCE

BBBB Dance Chicago 2001 An eclectic festival celebrating Chicago dance, featuring Melissa Thodos & Dancers, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street 2, Gus Giordano Jazz Dance and many more, thru Dec 2. \$5-\$25, Athenaeum Thtr, 2936 N Southport, 773 935-6860

BBBBDec 13: Muntu Dance Thtr SpiritDance, Muntu's fall concert, features world premieres of three new works as well as a special guest appearance by Oscar Brown, Jr. Thurs, 7:30 pm, Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm, thru Dec 16. \$12-\$20, Katherine Dunham Thtr, Kennedy-King College, 6800 S Wentworth, 773 602-1135

Underground Techniques

by DJ Harry T

Here we are at the end of another year in music. Many artists are working on new vibes to come for the new year and many new artists will emerge. The following is a list of releases worth listening and other to add to your collection:

Kerri Chandler—10 Years of Madhouse (Madhouse Records)

This New Jersey native with his 4/4 kick drum sound compiles a best-of hit list with tracks also written, produced and mixed by the man himself. From the sermon of "Hallelujah" to the pleadings of "I Need You" by Kamar, this mix exemplifies the history of the label as a staple of quality house music.

Abstract Latin Lounge—Various Artists (Nitegrooves)

Following in the path of their last two releases, "Abstract Jazz Lounge" and "Abstract Afro Lounge," comes our next wave with the Latin-flavoured compilation. Opening up the set with one of my favorite mix DJ's, Mateo and Matos, "That Latin Rhythm," this album swings with full percussive beats of "Latin Ritual" and "Carlito's Groove," to the smooth Body and Soul style of "Casa Forte" by Snowboy, remixed by Joe Claussell.

Sheila E. and The E-Train—Heaven (Concord Vista)

Bursting onto the scene in the '80s with "The Glamorous Life" and "A Love Bizarre," one-time Prince protégé, Sheila E. mesmerized our ears with her brand of

funk, soul and Latin percussion. Having made her mark in music, she also appeared in one of the first hip hop movies, *Krush Groove*, and was also bandleader for the now-defunct "Magic Johnson Hour." After taking a break and a newfound spirituality, she went back to her roots and produced *Writes Of Passage*, a jazz album, collaborating with her brother, Pete Escovedo, and saxophonist Eric Leeds. She returns with a soft touch and brings in the funk with her on *Heaven*, her latest release. Introducing our ears to Lynn Mabry, who sings a sweet lullaby on "Who's Taking Care Of You?" and her pacing mind on "Waiting For You."

For more information on Sheila E. and The E-Train, visit her website at: www.sheilaec.com

Glory B, Da' Funk's On Me! Bootsy Collins Anthology (Rhino)

His career began in 1968 with his first group, The Pacesetters, which led to being James Brown's back up band, known as the JB's. In 1972, he joined forces with George Clinton and his Parliament/Funkadelic band for a short while and formed his own, Bootsy's Rubber Band. Releasing a string of albums and successful singles such as "The Pinocchio Theory" and "Bootzilla," the P-Funk has been compiled in this 2-CD set expanding on his career as an R&B bassist, singer, songwriter and producer. Highlights on the album which will be familiar to your ears and your behind are "Hollywood Squares," "Roto-Rooter," "Body Slam" and the classic "I'd Rather Be With You." So

wind this up, grip your hips and make your funk the P-Funk.

Q: The Musical Biography of Quincy Jones (Rhino)

What more can be said about a man who has worked with an incredible roster of artists and continues to amaze us with his incredible talent? An illustrious career expanding over 40 years, Jones first began playing trumpet with Lionel Hampton and later producing other jazz artists of the 1950s. He went on to write and produce the scores to such films as *For The Love Of Ivy*, *Cactus Flower*, *Roots* and *They Call Me Mr. Tibbs*.

Soon after, Q went on to put out his own music, winning awards for working with the likes of Frank Sinatra, George Benson, Chaka Khan and the gloved one, Michael Jackson, producing one of his biggest-selling albums, *Thriller*. Rhino has gathered an impressive 4-CD set reflecting the career of "The Dude," beginning with jazz classics such as "Misty," with the late Sarah Vaughan, "I'm Gone," with King Pleasure and "My Buddy," with Ray Charles. Moving into the '60s and '70s with the "Sanford and Son Theme," "Stuff Like That" and "Everything Must Change," into today with "Back On The Block" & "The Secret Garden." But don't let this list of memories stop you there! Why not enjoy them with a copy of his autobiography, chronicling the man behind the music and taking a journey back into time through his eyes, vision and mind.

Other releases worth mentioning: Madonna - *Greatest Hits Volume 2*

Jill Scott - *Experience Words and Sounds* 1 Alex Bugnon - *Soul Purpose*

David Sanchez - *Travesia*
La India - *The Best of La India*

The changing face of technology

With CD mixers enabling DJ's to enhance the performance of their mix sets, many try to be ahead of their competition by adding features that allow you to create 'magic' behind the decks. Back when Denon put out their first CD mixer, everyone was so amazed by its quality that it was consumed very fast. Others have surfaced to put compete, but have not compared. After the debate of vinyl versus CD some years back, it's amazing how both have fared.

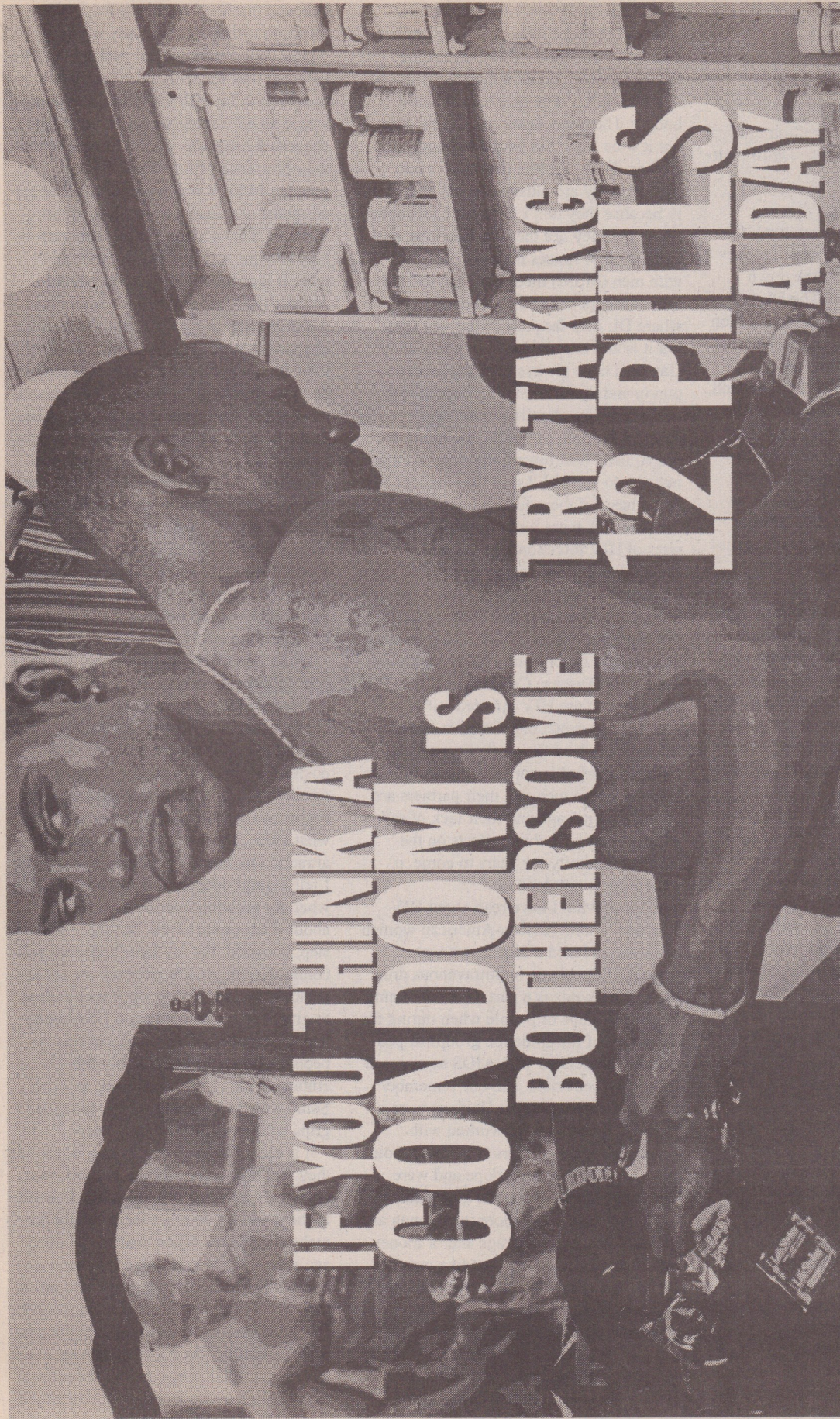
Now comes the latest in CD mixers with the ability of that of a turntable for precision cueing. Pioneer's CDJ-1000 which claims to be the first to offer vinyl emulation, to scratch and cue like a turntable, may fair in reputation and performance. Its features include the Hot Cue, which allows the DJ to cue points on a disc and save to insert as a loop, using the Loop section to play them back, in and out. If you make a mistake, use the real time cue to smooth out the loop.

The jogdial not only has the feel of a turntable but the display in the center indicates where you're at on the disc. You can flip between your standard CD mixer or vinyl mode, search back and forth between tracks and slide the pitch control to match beats on point. Retail cost of the CDJ-1000 retails for \$1200 each. Costly but well worth it in the long run.



Images from Transgenesis annual benefit. Photos by Israel Wright





IF YOU THINK A
CONDOM IS
BOTHERSOME

TRY TAKING
12 PILLS
A DAY

RESPECT YOUR HEALTH BY PROTECTING YOURSELF.
FOR A FREE HIV TEST CALL 1-800-243-AIDS

Approved by the University of Illinois at Chicago Institutional Review Board as part of a research project.



MOCHA
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Troopin' on the Low

Some thoughts on HIV prevention and young Black men who have sex with men

by Steve A. Williams

Much of the year there has been tremendous discussion among men who have sex with men on the subject of "the down low" or "The DL" for short. The DL is the term Black and Latino (largely) Generation Xer's in urban centers who themselves have sex with men but do not identify themselves as gay. From what I understand, being on the down low is essentially seen as a new identity separate and apart from the established labels of gay and bisexual. These young men have distanced themselves so much from the larger gay/bi/lesbian/trans community they have all but compartmentalized their sexuality to something they do as opposed to an identity.

I think much of their rejection of the larger gay community appears to be a reaction to the earlier days AIDS epidemic. These young men have witnessed the rejection of their gay neighbors and family members in their homes, churches and cultural institutions for both loving men and being HIV positive. For young men on the DL the labels of gay and bisexual are most often equated with being effeminate, HIV positive and interested in white men. These young men pride themselves on being "unclockable," meaning they can pass for straight, often claim to be involved with women and express what I think is an extreme hatred for modern gay culture. They cloak their desire behind hyper-masculine hip-hop attire and ghetto swagger. The DL boys have pretty much staked out the parameters of what it means to be a part of their club. So, if you're over 35, effeminate, don't relate to hip-hop culture and, don't have a girlfriend you're out of the picture.

True enough that for women and homosexual men alike the image of the boy with his baseball cap cocked to the side of his head, Phat Farm gear and "Tims" (Timberland) and a six-pack stomach has its appeal. What these new jacks don't realize is while they may put a new name to their same-sex desire, brothers "in the life" (gay identified men) have always dealt with their ilk. We have often run up on some guy who was "just fucking" who thought he was not a "faggot" because he was a top (does not allow himself to be

penetrated anally) or only got his dick sucked. If I had a dime for every brother who now calls himself gay who started out having sex with men on the receiving end of a blowjob, I'd be able to end world hunger. They may have updated the term but it's the same old hatred in baggy clothes. They can fool themselves into thinking they are outside the gay community because they don't frequent Christopher Street but they *are* there in the clubs, parks and the other spaces men who have sex with men (MSM) meet. You can call the Warehouse (a dance club in the Bronx where DL men frequent) what you want but it is and has always been a gay club. Gay men have always been suckers (no pun intended) for men with rugged exteriors. Many gay-identified men have even adopted the drag of the DL including the prerequisite hate toward their gay brethren in order to get laid. I find the needless hate at the heart of their pursuit regressive.

Personally, were it not for their sky-high rates of HIV infection I would be happy to say let them be so long as they didn't "hate on mines" as the term goes. But sadly their desire and dissonance are creating terrible consequences for the entire Black community. Recent findings of a study by the Centers for Disease Control show that 33% of these men are HIV infected—it is as important as protecting America against terrorism. Indeed these numbers speak to a different kind of terror growing within our borders. These men and their partners are of childbearing age and their lack of safety will have long-reaching affects on the Black community for years to come, if something is not done now.

Much of what I have read about HIV infection among African-American women has always placed a disproportionate amount of the blame on intravenous drug users. I think this is a part of the damming of whole groups of people when during the early days of the epidemic groups of people were associated with AIDS as opposed to specific behaviors. Anyone remember when it was thought that Haitians were a high-risk group? I have worked with women who had partners who shot heroin or who themselves shot dope and were HIV infected. My work has also made me aware there are many more men young and old who have sex for drugs and/or money than is widely believed. Just like men on the DL, many of these men didn't identify as gay or bisexual either.

Years ago I read about a study on younger gay men in San Francisco and their attitudes about age and HIV infection. The findings reported that many of the men

believed that they were safe from HIV infection if they had sex only with men within their chronological peer group. They believed that sex with older men would put them at risk for HIV infection. Another article about a study comes to mind that suggested there was reason to believe that the occurrence of infections among younger MSM's was not unlike documented routes of transmissions of other more treatable STD's among adolescent girls—they became infected via sex with adult men. It is common knowledge among MSM's that young men, men sometimes not of the age of consent, find themselves in spaces where sex is available. If older men are not protecting themselves they are certainly not thinking about future generations while their pants around their ankles. In the dark, in a bush or in front of a video monitor it is not always easy to tell how old someone is (and few care to ask)—and teenagers today look a lot older than when I was young, that's for sure. The prevailing attitude that if you are in any of these spaces then "you know the game" is simply wrong. These young men are incredibly vulnerable and the rules of the old game have become costly.

When I came out and I was not young (I was 45 days shy of my 28th birthday), I did so because I wanted to move beyond my conflicts about my same-sex desires. I wanted to be firmly grounded to some position whether it was gay, bisexual, whatever. I was prepared to explore (safely) my sexual self until I discovered just what I was. I wanted to know what my attraction to women was and the only way I felt I could determine that was seeing what my growing interest in men was about. I am proud of the fact that I took the step, prepared that my family, friends and community might not embrace me for my personal honesty. However, I was willing to give it all up if I had to so I could be happy. I realized I was lucky in that the people who matter most in my life embraced me in my wholeness, as I did. Some were just waiting for me to come to grips with what they already knew.

It is clear that for many young Black men they feel they have no such supports and are keenly aware that there is much hostility there waiting to greet them should they make such a step. Their fear is real in an age where we have managed to move discourse about sexual orientation into prime-time TV. There is still much in mainstream Black culture that is hostile to anything but heterosexuality. Their artistic heroes attack gay men in their songs and on the printed page. Religious leaders continue to attack

from the pulpit. DL boys live in a world that stresses "keeping it real" on the one hand but on the other, threatens you with social, economic, and physical violence were they to be truly real about who they are. It does not help either that many of these brothers don't see themselves reflected in many of the mainstream images of Black gay/bi men. While TV has recently created Black gay characters, few of them are in pursuit of other Black men. The message is you have to give up your race card if you are going to be gay. This just isn't so. Unfortunately, no Black male in the public eye is willing to stand up and say, "I'm gay." They are too concerned with the bottom line and we know the national color is not black or white—it's green.

One thing that is clear to me in the midst of the great DL debate is this younger generation is exploring its sexual natures more readily and more fully than in perhaps previous generations. Internet chatrooms are full of young men whose profiles are an indication that there is no lack of imagination among young brothers looking to get their groove on. Younger Black men seem to be saying they want to be free to "do their thing" without the negative impact from established labels. I think this should be the case but it shouldn't come at the expense of the dignity of others nor the lives of their babies and the women they are involved with. The message must be sent to these men they are at risk for HIV infection even if they are a top, even if their boy "looks healthy" and is all "thugged out," says he only has sex without condoms when he's in love and "ain't givin' up any ass" to nobody else, is only "sexin'" his "baby mama," is under 35, and may have "done a bid (incarceration)."

The dialogue about the DL must move from sexual desire and aesthetics so that it encompasses the wives, girlfriends and babies of these men. These brothers may remain elusive to

HIV prevention strategies but the onus for safety should not be wholly placed upon the shoulders of Black men in their relationships with women. It is essential that the message go out to their female counterparts that they are at risk for infection. In the development of prevention strategies to reduce further infections, Black women need to hold a prominent place at the table for these discussions, otherwise it will not work. Here is a new opportunity to encourage sisters to take control of their sexual and reproductive rights. Black women must be made aware of their risk so they can protect themselves even if they don't or can't ask their men, "Who are you, really?" Sisters who read popular fiction writers E. Lynn Harris' and James Earl Hardy's books about Black gay culture with all its [its] secrets and duplicity, need to understand that in this case art is really imitating life and that their stories bear some truth to them.

It is apparent as we enter the third decade of the AIDS epidemic just who is at greatest risk. This time, resources are smaller and the concern that developed during the first decades has dwindled. We are still very much a community in denial as we stand on the brink of losing a whole generation. It will be harder this time to claim injection drug use as the culprit in new infections of heterosexual women.

What I see is a terrible irony in the lives of DL boys. They will inherit the role of pariah they had hoped to avoid as they develop opportunistic infections associated with AIDS. As HIV progresses toward a symptomatic state, their secrets will be out. Covers blown, they will become those men who they witnessed isolated and cast out. The cycle will repeat itself and they will become the sissies, punks and faggots of their youth. They will have to contend with the same homophobia they have perpetrated from their families and homies.



Kenya and Sasha at Biology Bar. Photos by Israel Wright



Baton hosted the Miss Tri-State Continental Contest. Flame Monroe won. Tierra and Tasha are pictured below. Pics by Israel Wright



Introducing

TRIZIVIR[®]

abacavir sulfate + lamivudine + zidovudine
300 mg 150 mg 300 mg

O N E T A B L E T T W I C E A D A Y

TRIZIVIR is for adults and adolescents who weigh 88 pounds or more. TRIZIVIR does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others. At this time, it's not known whether taking TRIZIVIR will slow the progress of HIV disease or help you live longer.

Important Safety Information

TRIZIVIR contains abacavir, which is also called ZIAGEN. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that **may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away.**

You may be having this reaction if:

(1) you get a skin rash, or

(2) you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:

Fever

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal
(stomach area) pain

• Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
• Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

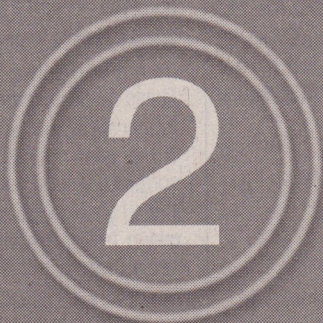
If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking TRIZIVIR and call your doctor right away.**

If you stop treatment with TRIZIVIR because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again.** If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours.**

NEW for HIV



1 tablet



2 times a day



3 medicines

3 HIV medicines in 1 tablet

- One tablet, two times a day, with or without food
- TRIZIVIR contains ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate 300 mg), EPIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg), and RETROVIR® (zidovudine 300 mg) in a single tablet

3-in-1 therapy

Talk to your healthcare professional about whether TRIZIVIR may be right for you. For more information, call 1-888-825-5249.

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with TRIZIVIR for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor, if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and/or white blood cells, especially in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.

A buildup of lactic acid and severe liver problems, including fatal cases, have been reported with HIV drugs of this type, including the medicines in TRIZIVIR and other antiretrovirals.

The most common side effects of taking the medicines in TRIZIVIR together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain. Most of these side effects were mild to moderate and did not cause people to stop taking these medicines.¹

Reference: 1. Data on file, GlaxoSmithKline.

Please see important information for TRIZIVIR on adjacent page.

www.TRIZIVIR.com



GlaxoSmithKline

MEDICATION GUIDE

TRIZIVIR® (TRY-zih-veer) Tablets

Generic name: abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine

Read the Medication Guide you get each time you fill your prescription for Trizivir. There may be new information since you filled your last prescription.

What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?

Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen®. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that **may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away.**

You may be having this reaction if:

- (1) *you get a skin rash, or*
- (2) *you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:*
 - Fever
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
 - Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
 - Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking Trizivir and call your doctor right away.**

If you stop treatment with Trizivir because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again.** If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours.**

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with Trizivir for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your health care provider. If your health care provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

Trizivir can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?"

What is Trizivir?

Trizivir is a medicine used to treat HIV infection. Trizivir includes 3 medicines: Ziagen (abacavir), Epivir® (lamivudine or 3TC®), and Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT, or ZDV).

All 3 of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so it can fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

Trizivir does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. Trizivir has not been studied long enough to know if it will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Therefore, you must see your health care provider regularly.

Who should not take Trizivir?

Do not take Trizivir if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to any of the medicines that make up Trizivir, especially Ziagen (abacavir). If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Trizivir to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take Trizivir if you weigh less than 90 pounds.

How should I take Trizivir?

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, take your Trizivir exactly as your doctor prescribes it. Do not skip any doses.

The usual dosage is 1 tablet twice a day. You can take Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine) with food or on an empty stomach.

If you miss a dose of Trizivir, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual scheduled time. Do not let your Trizivir run out. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if your anti-HIV drugs are stopped, even for a short time. Also, the virus in your body may become harder to treat.

What should I avoid while taking Trizivir?

Do not take Epivir, Retrovir, Combivir®, or Ziagen while taking Trizivir. These medicines are already in Trizivir.

Practice safe sex while using Trizivir. Do not use or share dirty needles. Trizivir does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking Trizivir. Trizivir has not been studied in pregnant women. It is not known whether Trizivir will harm the unborn child.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their babies because HIV is passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, Trizivir can be passed to babies in breast milk and could cause the child to have side effects.

What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?

Life-threatening allergic reaction. Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen. Abacavir has caused some people to have a life-threatening allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. How to recognize a possible reaction and what to do are discussed in "What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.

Lactic acidosis and severe liver problems. The medicines in Trizivir can cause a serious condition called lactic acidosis and, in some cases, this condition can cause death. Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. Women are more likely than men to get this serious side effect.

Blood problems. Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause serious blood cell problems. These include reduced numbers of white blood cells (neutropenia) and extremely reduced numbers of red blood cells (anemia). These blood cell problems are especially likely to happen in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.

Your doctor should be checking your blood cell counts regularly while you are taking Trizivir. This is especially important if you have advanced HIV or AIDS. This is to make sure that any blood cell problems are found quickly.

Muscle weakness. Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause muscle weakness. This can be a serious problem.

Other side effects. Trizivir can cause other side effects. The most common side effects of taking the medicines in Trizivir together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain.

This listing of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects with Trizivir.

Ask a health care professional about any concerns about Trizivir. If you want more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the labeling for Trizivir that was written for health care professionals.

Do not use Trizivir for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Trizivir to other persons.

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

November 2000

MG-011

This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

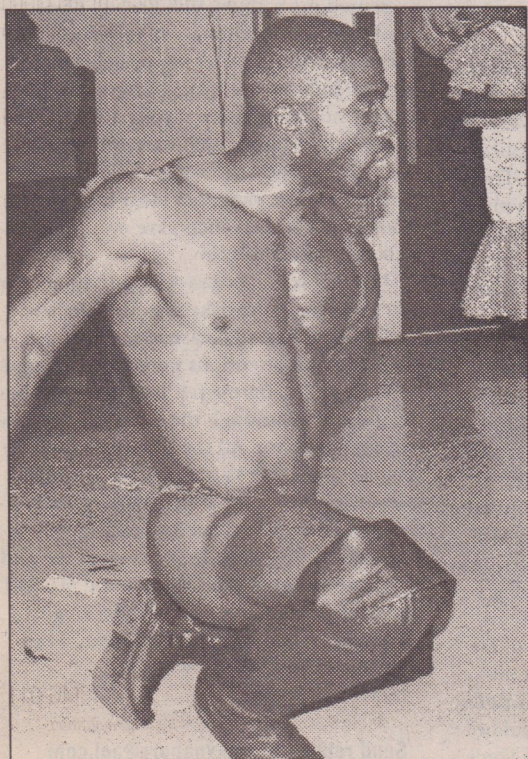
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TRZ022R0

January 2001



Images from
Jacques Cristion's
31st annual
Halloween ball on
the city's south
Side. Photos by
Israel Wright



Leather Life

by Cain Berlinger

Dear Cain:

As a Black leather man, I still haven't felt the overwhelming brotherhood of my membership in the [club] or others clubs of color in leather. Today, I questioned what is a leather club to be or do? Is it a dick farm or ass camp? Workshops on "What is SM" and SM101 demos?

I want to know from you, what should a leather club do for its membership to develop this brothahood? I know you are a member of several clubs, please share with me what and how you develop that brothahood?

It's hard to connect with people JUST on the basic of leather/freak, there are so many levels we deal on, especially men of color. Some brothas don't do the bars nor enjoy the protocol of leather.

I get a feeling of being so alone at times, in need of connecting with other men of color who are also into leather. My boy and I have a hot wild kinky time together, but we feel so isolated most of the time. We both talk to other men of color online just to connect.

So, thanks for the story in [Blacklines], it hit me and made me look at my lack of leather brothahood here in [the city].

Your Brotha, Isolated

Dear Isolated:

You are not alone in your feelings and perceptions about Leather clubs in general. I have addressed similar issues in past columns (www.mrcain.com). Leather clubs, like their members, come in all shapes and sizes, focusing on fetish and sex or community and outreach. A handful combine the two. You need to find a club that will help you accomplish what it is that interests you most. There are also clubs that simply like the look and mystique of leather and it ends there, sharing no interests in the community or its many varied sexual aspects.

The aforementioned clubs occasionally attract people who are passionate about their community and/or their sex. Generally this passion includes sharing the good (community service) and bad (intricate sex scenes gone wrong) with club brothers who are all going toward a common ground. If your club just wants to play dress up and party then shallow clubs will usually house shallow members. Individual friendships? Certainly. 'Botherhood'? I don't think so.

The so-called protocol of leather and the bars makes up a great deal of the community where camaraderie and the exchange of ideas take place. Many clubs are extremely active in the community while in others it's merely an excuse to get social. For this you don't need a club—you may find that you may have joined a clique and nothing more. Some are satisfied with the status quo. Others



much touted diversity. When you cut yourself off from that diversity in the community you cut yourself off from facets of the very community that fosters brotherhood. Think of what the word means. You want brotherhood among your Black brothers or brotherhood within the community? (My book *Black Men in Leather* addresses this issue specifically to men of color.)

Bring up your feelings at the next club meeting. You may find that there are others who share your isolation but have yet to get close enough to dialogue. I hope I've been of some help. Good Luck

Check out my site www.mrcain.com
Writercain@aol.com

GURRRRLology

Baby Dolls

by Vicki Nabors



Happy Holiday Season to you all! Recently, I took a journey into the deepest recesses of my memories and returned with several pictures from the past. I reminisced over many of the pictures for a while before putting them away. There were a few that I wanted to share with my companion later on that evening, so I stored them in my mind. I was a bit hesitant to share these pictures with her because of my butch demeanor. I feared that she'd laugh ... and she did! "No Vicky," she laughed. "I can't imagine you playing with a baby doll ... you're too butch!" Well, needless to say, I didn't know how to respond. So, I quietly returned those photos to my memories and sat quietly allowing my mind to wonder.

Suddenly, I sat up in my chair and busted out laughing. My friend looked at me with that, "what's wrong with you" look and quickly left the room. I hadn't lost my mind; it was the vision that had just entered it that was cracking me up. I'd envisioned three of my butch buddies as little girls, sitting on the floor in little dresses playing with baby dolls; well one was playing with a truck. I couldn't force my mind to put a baby doll into Von's arms ... that did not compute! But Tracy,

Deidre, and Sandra were all playing with their baby dolls. Can you imagine the butch person in your life as a little girl playing dress up with a baby doll? Can you see it? My friend says that these thoughts of me nauseate her because she can't imagine me in a dress playing with a baby doll!

My skeletons are out of the closet so let's stake a brief trip back into our little girl years. What was your favorite baby doll? A strange rubber like doll named Penelope was my favorite. In the 1960s it was Chatty Cathy ... you pulled the string in her back and she talked, and Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy. The 1970s brought Baby Alive ... she cried real-like tears and ate food or something like that, and Betsy Wetsey pissed her diaper. Christie came in black and a white versions. I always thought that she was a fraud because she didn't have a body! She was just a damn head with hair and accessories for styling. I couldn't get with that imaginary concept; it was dumb. The 1980s brought Tiny Tears, Rub-A-Dub Dolly, and the Cabbage Patch dolls.

Did you play tea party, dress up, mamma and baby, teacher and student, or did you just mutilate the poor doll? I was always the teacher and they were my students. There's always that special doll that came out every Christmas that every little girl just has to have; can you remember yours?

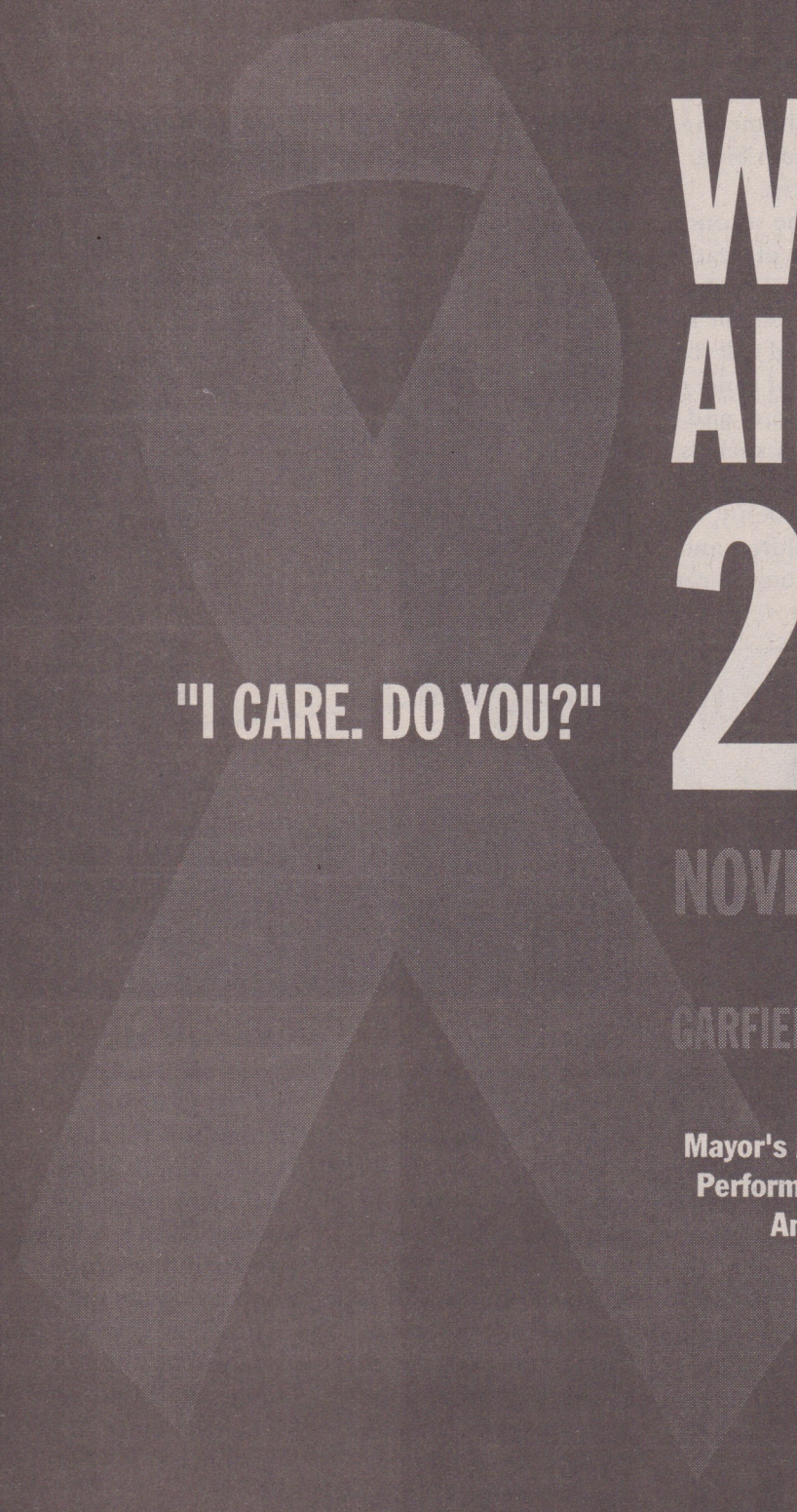
Anyway, dolls for me were a way to escape the realities of my confusing young life. The escape that those plastic toys afforded me was priceless, especially when my mother presented me with my first Barbie. The transition from baby dolls to a mature-looking Barbie doll with breasts was perfectly timed because puberty was a knocking at my door and my hormones were raging. I also requested a Skipper doll, Ken doll, and G.I. Joe doll. I already had some other no-name Barbie and Ken wannabes from the Woolworth's store, which gave me a nice collection of little dolls.

Thus the drama began—it was Barbie who quickly became the dyke slut. Initially, she'd tried to date Ken to please my mother but found that his attentions were more focused on G.I. Joe. So, Barbie felt free to chase all of the girl dolls, although the Black Skipper was her favorite flavor. All the other boy dolls fought for G.I. Joe's attention but it was in vain since he'd become Ken's queen extraordinaire! Thus, they turned to each other for consolation. WooWooWoo! Laugh at me and at my collection of dolls if you want! We had a great ole time partying and exploring.

However, when I got tired of them, I ran outside and climbed a few fences.

Merry Christmas!

Send replies to vickynabors@aol.com



"I CARE. DO YOU?"

WORLD AIDS DAY 2001

NOVEMBER 30, 2001

AT

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

NOON - 3PM

**Mayor's Award of Excellence Ceremony,
Performances by Genesis Connection,
Anthony Hollins, and more**

Sponsored by CDPH, The Faces of AIDS, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, The NAMES Project Chicago, American Red Cross, WHARP, SHARP, WHAPA

AFFINITY GETS GRANT FOR CANCER STUDY AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN

Affinity Community Services has been awarded a grant from the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's Lesbian Health Fund to conduct an innovative health promotion program for African American lesbian and bisexual women, "Take Charge." Dr. Alicia Matthews of the University of Chicago will direct the study, which was announced Nov. 9 at

the agency's home in Chicago's South Side Hyde Park area.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death of Americans, and studies suggest that lesbians may be at increased risk for certain types of cancers due to behavioral and lifestyle factors such as high rates of smoking, alcohol use, obesity, lack of having children and low participation in can-



Activist Jackie Anderson (ABOVE) Affinity leader Chris Smith (TOP). Photos by Rosalind Glanton.

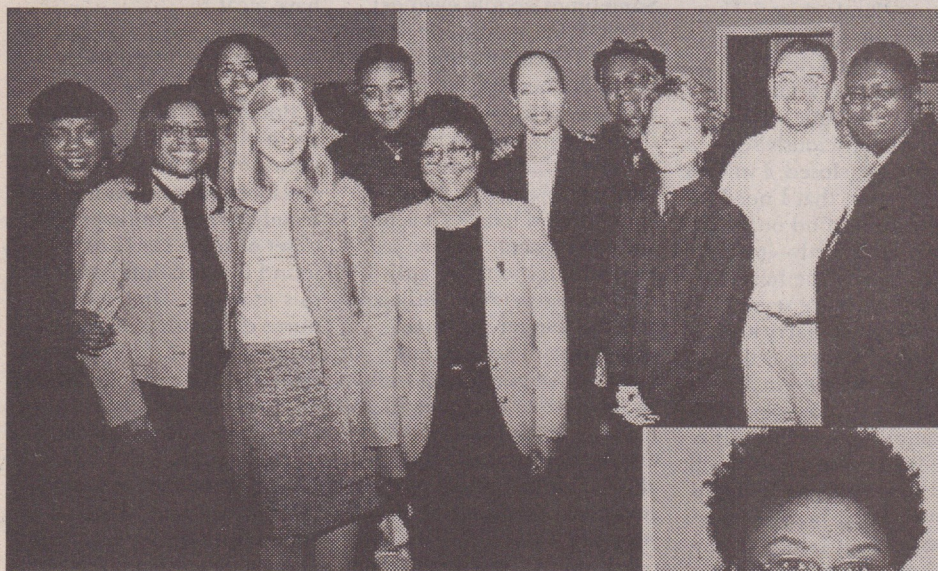


cer screening. African-American women, on average, are less likely to develop breast cancer than white women; yet, they are more likely to die from the disease once diagnosed. The goals of the study include evaluating a culturally competent program for providing cancer education and screening, and to identify additional health needs. Affinity will work with the Chicago Dept. of Public Health's Office of Gay and

Lesbian Health, Howard Brown Health Center, and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project on this study.

Affinity is a non-profit serving Chicago's Black lesbian and bisexual women's community.

The "Take Charge" program will begin in January. Call Lyssa Menard, Project Coordinator, at (773) 834-4413.



ABOVE: LCCP
Executive director
Jessica Halem and
study director Dr.
Alicia Matthews.
BELOW: More atten-
dees at the Affinity
press conference.
Photos by Rosalind
Glanton.



HERSTORY

by Kathleen Rose Winter

I cannot believe another year has zoomed by; almost like something in fast-forward. I am grateful for surviving 2001 (though technically, as I write this it is still 2001, so I'll just assume that I will be around for 2002). As many people, I had high hopes for this year. I made the annual promises to myself—that I would do better and be better. In some aspects, I have done that, and in others, I need to try again (and again, and again). One thing that I have learned is that it is all right to make these promises every year. I do not beat myself up if I fail in my attempts to keep my promises, or if while trying, I fail. One thing I do every year is save a special day for a "new beginning." Sometimes that day is Easter Sunday or my birthday, or any month I can pay my rent on time. Usually I save my rebirth for Jan. 1.

I must admit that on that day everything seems fresh and new. Hope for a new beginning or just a good life, does not feel like a promise, but instead, a given. Outside, no matter what the weather, the air seems new and people seem to smile a little more. My head is always clear on this first day of the year. I see things better. I hear things more clearly. I smell the promise of my life. I can touch and actually feel the wonder of feeling something. I am new. As the days go on, the smiles from others seem to fade while I become caught up in living life, not only to survive, but also to live it. This regression becomes disturbing. My mind becomes muddled. I begin to forget what I felt on the first day.

I have decided that I need to not only keep a record of my promises, but also reminders of what failed and why it failed. I feel privileged to share this with my readers



(all five of you—not counting the editors of this column). Some things you may relate to, but those things that may seem foreign to you, try to find a like situation that may apply to your life. The following is a list and some notes on things I need to remember. I will keep this list to remind me of the things I need to remember or avoid. Please feel free to carry this list in your pocket in order to help with whatever situation may apply.

1. I will never again try to accept someone's hospitality by eating "lamb chips." They have nothing to do with lambs or chips. I do not understand how a man can eat them, but I guess they can by subconsciously squeezing their legs closed. I will ask every question that I need to ask in order to find out what I am eating, exactly—to the point of having the host illustrate what they are serving.

2. I will never marry another woman. I will enjoy the company of women in a respectful way, however, I will not commit to a relationship. There is one exception. I will marry Vanessa Lynn Williams. However, I may not ever meet her—or even if I do, I do not think I can convince her to marry me. It looks as if I am all right in this department. I will think with my mind and my clit, but not with my heart (except for Vanessa Lynn Williams—I will think with everything).

3. I will stop saying "you know what I mean," "it's all good," "ain't," "love ya," "true dat," "I heard that," "let's have lunch," "I feel you," "don't throw hate," and "I'm sorry, it will only take a

minute to get my foot out of your ass."

4. I will not try to walk "cool." I have to be honest; people with orthopedic disabilities cannot walk "cool." We already limp around, so when we try to walk "cool" (or as old school says, "pimp") people rush up to us thinking that we are falling, or in pain, or are having some type of brain seizure. When this happens, it takes 30 minutes to convince my "helper" that I am all right.

5. I will not jaywalk. I feel strongly about this. As a person with a physical disability, I feel that there needs to be a law that states, "Anyone on a cane, crutches, or a walker shall walk at the crosswalks and with the light." The exceptions are persons who know how to use their wheelchairs efficiently and accurately. Vehicle drivers usually freeze up when they see a person in a wheelchair using the street for mobility. Sometimes people even get angry. What the public must realize is that we are using the street because we have no access to the sidewalk and/or the sidewalk is in so much disrepair that we would be injured if we use it. Please "don't throw hate" (it is not 2002 yet!) when you see us. However, try to make a distinction between the efficient and the dangerous wheelchair users. The efficient ones will be going with traffic, as close to the sidewalk or parked cars as possible, while the dangerous ones will probably be in the middle of the street and eventually under your car.

6. I will not watch the Jerry Springer show, for obvious reasons. If the reasons are not obvious to you, do not worry about it.

7. I am going to stop eating chicken and turkey, so that those damn "chickens and turkeys, eating me" nightmares will end.

8. I will try to stop kissing women before I know their names. (I did say try.)

9. I will try to be celibate. (I did say try.)

10. I will try to find a woman my height and have sex with her. I like tall women, but tall for me is 5'1". My friends often say to me, "girl you love to climb those trees." If you do not know what that means, do not worry. That statement objectifies women (in poor taste) and does not reflect how I feel about tall women (or any woman). While I am trying to find this woman, who is my height, I am open to women of all heights. That is because I truly respect the worth, humanity, and sensitivity of all women (call me if you want to verify this). (Please ignore promise number 9.)

11. I will never respond to an invitation to the Jerry Springer show. I will act as if I cannot speak English or any language, or communicate in any way.

12. I will check my shoes before I put my feet inside of them (especially boots). (I have a cat.)

13. When someone says to me "trust me," I will not.

14. When a child tells me, "I don't feel good," I will not try to play doctor by feeling their heads and asking stupid questions, but instead, immediately take them first to a toilet or trash can. I have found that seconds count in this situation. Then a real nurse or doctor can handle the situation. I mean they are skilled with handling children who are sick and therefore drain, and spit out mysterious liquids.

15. If someone tells me, "I'll kick your ass" I will believe him or her and thus remove myself from the situation. After all, even though I am muscular and strong, I am still a pacifist.

16. I will write more books (really). I will publish my cartoons, my poems, and feature stories in national publications.

17. I will get a good job that I truly like.

18. Even though I do not do this now, I will not look at a woman's butt in an inappropriate way.

19. I will stop this f—— cursing.

20. When I say "Hello" to someone, and if that person sees me and hears me but does not respond, I will not approach him or her and scream in his or her face "I just said hello! I know you heard me. I was raised to speak back to a person. Now say 'Hello' damn it!"

I hope that my examples can be helpful to you. Either way, always remember to forgive yourself and never give up. Happy New Year!

PURRFECTLY SPEAKING...

by Anita Charlot



He looked at me then turned his head to the side. He spoke softly to me as only a mommy's

boy can ... "Mom, I just thought about something that made me sad ... when I go to my Dad's house, you will be all alone. You won't have anyone to play with or talk to." A tear rolled down his face that he tried so desperately not to let me see.

I reassured him that I would be fine; that I like being alone; that I get to walk around the house naked and that it gives me time to read and write. I asked if he felt bad leaving his Mommy at home by herself while he went to have fun at this Dad's and he said yes. I told him I would be fine, then I started to tickle him to take his mind off of things.

My Little Nurturer.

He watches me when he thinks I'm not looking.

He brings me Lucky Charms in bed those mornings that he notices I am having a hard time getting up.

He struggles to open doors for me, carry bags for me.

He makes me walk on the inside of the sidewalk.

He plays in my hair, tries to massage my back, all of the nurturing things he can think of to lessen the pain.

How perceptive he is for a 7-year-old.

A lot of times we think our children are too young to understand what's going on in adult world. We think that if we don't say anything to them directly that they will be oblivious to the challenges in our lives. Well, it is clear that my little angel recognizes the difference. Our household has diminished by two bodies in the past three months. Our lives have been completely changed. What was once a home now feels like fragmented living space. We both have had to make major adjustments, but it is comforting to know that we have each other and that with the strength of our love ... we will set out to make new family traditions and somehow piece our fragmented living space back together again.

Try not to make the mistake of shutting your children out when you are dealing with your emotions. They learn from you how to handle life's challenges. If they ask you "what's wrong," give them a simple explanation based on their intelligence level. Don't insult them by telling them that everything is fine when it isn't. If you do, they will learn how to mask their own feelings instead of sitting with them and healing through them.

When my son asks me if I miss my ex, I say, "Yes, I miss her very much." That is the truth and he deserves that. It also helps him to acknowledge his own feelings. All children deserve that. Love your children; teach them how to express their emotions. Show them that you are not only their parent but you are also human. They will learn so much from you ... remember you are their best teacher.

For a bio of Anita Charlot and information on the ser-

vices she offers, visit www.purrfectharmonyinc.com. If you would like to read a press release about her book "Poetic Growing Pains..." and view her column regarding relationships, log onto www.nthallife.com, and go to Reading Corner as well as the Soulful Expressions link, (to soon be changed to Purrfectly Speaking...).

THEY CALL IT ON THE "DL" BUT IT'S REALLY THE "BL"

Men who want their cake and eat it too
LETTER TO THE EDITOR of ESSENCE MAGAZINE

A recent series of articles and talk shows, including on respectable BET, have devoted attention and discussion to men on the down low (DL), men who have sex with men but either have a wife or girlfriend. These men are the latest threat, as many of these articles and talk show formats have portrayed, because they are spreading the HIV disease to heterosexual women, especially Black women. I was recently talking with a friend, and as we joked about life and being gay, he remarked DL, they really should be saying BL (but lying). As we laughed, it struck me; men who do not identify as being bisexual are the new identified class of "high risk" group. But of all people to identify as high risk, bisexuals are the most difficult. These individuals have a desire for sex, whether it is male or female. They have made a commitment to accept whomever they're with. Heterosexuals and Homosexuals are quite the opposite. Who would ever think gay and straight folks could come together over sex. We are truly in a new age. The threat of HIV/AIDS is still a very serious problem in this country and throughout the world. As the numbers grow, we must continue to fight the further spread of this disease. But to identify men, whether they are Black or otherwise who engage in high risk unprotected sex, is

to shift the focus of public policy and education resources to a group of people who can neither be reached or identified. Instead of calling these brothers on the DL, they are today's sex terrorists. They harbor a disease, which if diagnosed and treated will not kill the human body. They instead seek sex and personal gratification without regard to human life. Aren't these what and whom we call terrorists today? "Someone who without regard to human life will injure or kill someone for satisfaction?" The threat of HIV and the available resources are important tools today in educating people about this disease and the reality of AIDS; 21 years later, and 79 drugs to date, we in America have the tools to deal with HIV. Black gays, lesbians and transsgendered today are dealing with HIV and AIDS; we know the reality of the medical regimen, we are survivors. The many who have died, they suffered a needless death. But as we debate HIV/AIDS, some bisexual men are men who are not the issue because they aren't doing it on the "DL" but the "BL." They have been lying to their partners and have been spreading a dangerous disease at the expense of the African-American race in America. If we don't have straight women, we won't have a Black America!

We must always remember that education and prevention got the message out, education and prevention is a key part in helping to stop the spread of AIDS. We have to as African Americans continue to educate and prevent the spread of HIV in this country. You must always protect yourself. Getting tested is a responsible thing, your life is more important than personal gratification. Whatever works, we must say it always and say it often! Men on the "DL," you have been clocked, and your tea is revealed.

WWILLASSOC1@AOL.COM

THE SYMBOLIC AFTERMATH

by Sanford E. Gaylord

The terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001, or 9/11, have caused rippling effects throughout the U.S. and the world. Complacency and denial were shattered on that day, as well as the lives and households of many Americans and others across the globe. Some people I've spoke with say they remember exactly where they were or what they were doing when they heard this life-altering news.

Here in the U.S., many of us have grown being up taught that we are the most powerful country on the planet, a symbol of freedom, democracy and a crusader for civil liberties. All that we have believed in or felt safe with is in doubt since 9/11. We now stand as a symbol of the worst terrorist attack in recorded history. I have heard many people think that, or have called this World War III. This is not a class in history at school; this is not a dream, it's reality. It has played out right before our eyes. News of the attacks saturated the media. The terrorist attacks have been the topic of conversation in households across the country and in the workplace.

Our symbol as a world super-power shattered on 9/11 when we were struck on our own shores by terrorists linked to Osama Bin Laden. Two hijacked aircraft flew out of Boston with destinations to the West Coast, struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center, resulting in both towers collapsing. Thousands of lives were lost, which included emergency rescue personnel. The two other planes, one striking the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the fourth crashing in Pennsylvania, also resulted in loss of life and destruction of households.

The day of the attack and thereafter,



that they could not donate blood regardless of their HIV status.

Not long after the attacks, President George W. Bush spoke at O'Hare Airport in Chicago between an American and United Airlines aircraft similar to the planes used in the attacks, and proudly proclaimed "America is united against terrorism."

Almost 30 days passed before America struck back at Afghanistan, where the Taliban is reported to be giving refuge to Osama Bin Laden. America struck back at terror symbolically on the day that we commemorate the discovery of the New World, Columbus Day. Operation Enduring Freedom was announced across the world.

Bin Laden released a videotaped statement the day America struck back expressing that "...the U.S. was hit by God in one of its softest spots." He also expressed that "America is full of fear from its north to its south, from its west to its east." Yes, America is feeling fear, and insecurity, but it has facilitated a sense of unity. I think many Americans have worked very hard to attain and maintain some sense of normalcy since the attacks. The media has helped to infuse a sense of patriotism in our country that has not been felt since World War II.

Our federal government warned that there could be future attacks and to be calm but alert. Then came the Anthrax scare in Boca Raton, Fla., at the American Media building. The U.S. mass media was the next target in this symbolic war, with representatives at all three major networks contracting either the inhaled or skin version of the disease. Anthrax was also discovered at postal facilities that serve our federal government.

Throughout these attacks on our shores, we as a nation had to deal with the ugliness of racism rearing its head concerning people of Islamic faith. The colorcast system had a new resurgence as people of Latin decent were unjustly profiled as well as those with Middle Eastern heritage. The sad thing

is that for many African-American's, racial profiling is an almost daily occurrence. Folks seem so quick to forget the tragedy of Oklahoma that happened just a few years back.

I spoke with my colleague Byron Stewart recently about this new war. "Testing positive has new meaning nowadays," he said. Indeed, we have gone from AIDS to Anthrax. What he said made me think about a war that many Americans have been fighting for the past 20 years, HIV/AIDS. I find it interesting that the discoveries of AIDS and Anthrax is similar. Both diseases were unheard of by most of the public and thought of as weapons manufactured by some evildoer.

With both diseases, we learned how it is transmitted. Many people are wearing latex gloves for protection. You can't always tell by looking at a person that they are living with HIV and you can't tell by looking at a piece of mail that it hasn't been exposed to Anthrax. The difference is that thousands of gay men died before our government committed itself to doing something. Thousands of lives are lost around the world annually to AIDS and thus far, it has claimed the lives of 93 million men, women and children. AIDS is ravaging communities of color. I am concerned that we may lose races of people here in the U.S. in the next 20 years.

At nearly a million dollars a missile, and carte blanche approval of funds to fight Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan has been bombed almost every day since we struck back. How long can our country afford to keep this up? I am concerned that we may lose focus with a war at home that many of us in the trenches have been fighting for 20 years, HIV/AIDS—and Dec. 1st or 12/1 is commemorated around the earth as World AIDS Day.

Our country was headed for recession before the terrorist attacks, and is still in an economic downturn. Thousands of people are out of work, with the unemployment rate at 5.4%. Many AIDS service organizations are struggling to keep their doors open. Many private and corporate contributions have started to diminish, with funds being diverted towards disaster relief. 9/11 was a tragedy that we have felt repercussions in almost every facet of American life. We have learned that we cannot be complacent in our thoughts of being the strongest nation on the planet.

As Americans we need to be united not only against terrorism, we need to focus on the fact that we have already been engaged in a 20-year war. We need to learn from our past to protect and insure a future.



The Fu Fu guys. Photo by Israel Wright

What's The '411'

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Advice
with an attitude!



"Through our silence, we have licensed and encouraged dysfunctional behavior by our friends, our families, our institutions, and our clergy. For far too many of us, this has become our reality. Respecting our soul can change your reality, but only if you are willing to make personal growth a priority in your life."

— Keith Boykin

Reality Check

Winter News Flash -

As of Jan. 1, 2001, recent HIV infections among African American gay, bisexual, down-low; same gender loving brothers were still on the rise. One in three African-American Men that have sex with men (MSM) were infected before age 30, with nearly 15 percent of 23-29 year-olds newly infected each year—more than five times the infection rate of white MSM (American Journal of Public Health, 2001).

This is Health Advocate, Preston L. Shumaker, reporting live from the Centers of Disease Control Midwest Summit in the heart of Downtown Chicago. Community-based organizations and health department representatives alike ventured from the surrounding states to seek current statistical data and obtain HIV prevention program strategies. Realizing these basic facts, I sat in the various informative groups in corporate drag and listened to local and national HIV prevention panelists disclose the staggering and brazen truth. I am not pleased!

As the presenters revealed this similar trend throughout the United States, seemingly the HIV data protruded upon the white canvas and flashed brightly in red neon warning for all to take heed. Danger! Danger! African-American gay and bisexual men were five times more likely to become HIV infected than our white gay counterparts! Brothers, you are making a wrong decision regarding your sexual health, and it could be hazardous to your health—and this is clearly reflected in the data.

For more than 20 years, HIV had been the original viral terrorist, long before Anthrax dashed upon the scene and shook up Americans. Clearly, this state of emergency upon Black and Brown male lives had been declared prior to this event. Yet, I

took a quick panoramic glimpse about the CDC summit and turned my head, noticing that over one-third of the conference chairs were vacant. What's was going on? I wondered. Clearly, much more innovative HIV prevention efforts would be needed.

Readers, do we all understand this 411 tip? After so many years of combating HIV, it still is seething and reeking havoc on communities of color. As infections continue to churn out of control, are we becoming too comfortable with this viral menace? Now, allow that question to simmer a bit. I ask this question because HIV remains a preventable disease; yes, IT is! However brothers, we are becoming too lax—getting' busy and hittin' it in with other brothers in record numbers without our jimmies! But, this truth does not solely rest upon the bangee boys or the down-low (DL) brothers. Also, there are many femme male divas who may kick it with those big pimpin', crotch tuggin', muscle bulgin', mack daddy and thug appealing' brothers who may be infected. But, then again, we can't forget the well-educated bourgeois buppies (Black yuppies). They, too, are not immune to HIV infection and could be infecting others themselves. More importantly, MSMs of color may not know that they are HIV positive and unknowingly are transmitting the virus to other partners.

And guess what, readers? It makes no difference to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus whether you choose to take heed of this knowledge. It shall continue to slither about and stalk us wherever we choose to have our sexual escapades—in the bedrooms, trees, shrubs, glory holes, and orgy rooms, because we are no longer talking about HIV prevention! Brothers are remaining silent about those sexual escapades and ultimately it can cost us our HIV negative status. While you are lying down with Mr. Phyne for right now, HIV could be creepin' into your body through unprotected sex or sharing dirty needles.

Readers, what are you doing about it? When was the last time you had a conversation with your sex partner(s) regarding HIV? More importantly, when was the last time you have been HIV tested? Give your-

self a gift this holiday season, make an appointment and check up on your HIV status!

Consider it a personal call to action! Brothers, only we can reclaim our personal power and our bodies.

As we all reflect and wrap up the 2001 year, the GLBT commu-

nity must recommit the HIV prevention discussions. At the very least, we can rekindle those sexual and drug discussions with our close cliques. Regardless if we are hanging with the B-boyz, diva girlfriendz, or pieces of trade, let the real sexual and drug healing truly begin! As we share our stories about that scrumptious, bootylicious piece of good ol' raw loving, and/or how large the brother-in-charge is, we can slip in how to cover all that good loving, OK? Or at the very least, we can reduce our risk by lowering alcohol and/or drug use before having sex.

The real tip brothers is that we must take charge by stepping up and regaining our authority over our minds and beautiful Black and Brown bodies. Honoring and respecting your soul starts with making a personal commitment to yourself to remain HIV free. In the end, real men take responsibility for their actions as well as their personal health. And, contrary to the pharmaceutical social marketing campaigns, becoming HIV positive is not cute! Taking a hand full of pills on a daily basis, experiencing chronic fatigue, or losing control of your bodily functions is NOT my idea of fun! Please readers, don't believe the hype. So, the question remains: are you man enough to step up and take the challenge? Enough said.

Have a Happy and safe holiday season with those you hold dear.

Reference:

R. Wolitski, R. Valdiserri, P. Denning et al. Are We Headed for a Resurgence in the HIV Epidemic Among Men Who Have Sex with Men? AM J Pub Health 2001;91:883-888.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN professional networking association invites all area GLBT professionals to our monthly meetings. We are a diverse organization of men and women professionals who seek to form friendships and develop networking opportunities within our community. Meetings are held on the First Friday (Social Cocktails) and the Third Wednesday (Dinner Program) of

each month. For information: **(773) 296-2762**, <http://www/cpna.org> (01/02)

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PARTIES

COZY CAT Productions Presents: "Masks on Parade," a pre-Halloween Jam, Cash prizes for the scariest, freakiest and most original costumes: **FRIDAY, OCT. 26, 2001. Costumes not mandatory.** NEXT PARTY: **Friday, Nov. 23**, join us for a special post-Thanksgiving Party. **Both events 10 p.m.-4 a.m. at 8220 S. Western Ave.** Admission \$10. For more info contact **(312) 941-3763**. Where will YOU be 12/31/01? (11/01)

TRAVEL

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 (\$1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY **MALEBOX MAGAZINE:** The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men \$29/12 issues (hdcpy only). Maleboxdc@yahoo.com 1-800-798-3477 for sample.

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All articles, poetry, artwork
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CODES: ISO = In Search Of, LTR = Long Term Relationship

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

To keep your free voice box active continuously, you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.

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I'm a very attractive Iranian, looking to meet a good looking muscular guy for a great safe oral encounter. (773) 525-8310, ask for room #423 (12/5)

Me: GBM, 6'3", 240, muscular built. mature, attractive, sensitive and genuine. "I Love to do acts of kindness". I am one that believes what makes a good LTR is communication, tolerance and being non-judgmental. I am anal, creative and have good sense of humor. You" Humorous male, establish, exciting, 40-50 years/old. Not into the head games, leader, generous. Able to understand you can e from different walks of life and make a LTR be successful. also,able to accept

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- ✦ You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
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genuine character and honesty. **VOICE 52007 (12/5)**

Yellow hanky bottom available for individual and group activity. Send phone. Will reply immediately. **NL 729 (11/14)**

Black male VGL, sensitive, 29 y/o, 6'2", 240# ISO mature, attractive GWM, good communicator, sensitive, and ready for a LTR. **VM (636) 391-8625 (11)**

Hung Blk BTM seeks masculine total top. I am a GBM mid-30's 6', 165#. Slender, smooth, seeks slender top 24-40 y/o for intimate sessions. **(312) 671-7814 (11)**

I would like to hold each others hands under the stars, letting you know how special you are and give you always love, passion, loyalty, romance, friendship and more. Nice looking Latino 29 y/o, 6', 150# seeks tall skinny guy for long term relationship. Photo/phone to get

mine. Please serious only. **NL Box 725. (11)**

Attractive GBM 35 seeks new friendships w/ genuine LTR oriented men, 30-38 years old. Drop me a line stating your hobbies and interests. I love jazz and dining out and intimate quiet times. **Boxholder, PO Box #268241, Chicago, IL 60626-8241 (11)**

WOMEN

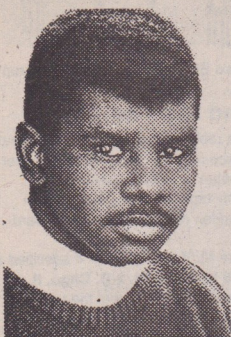
GBF, mature, attractive, Lakeview area, ISO feminine, mature, GFs 35-45 for friendship, possible LTR. Smokers OK. No bis. **(773) 438-8904 VM (1)**

Black lesbian late 40s, 5'7" light complected, employed, intelligent without baggage. Non drinking, no drugs, seeks same 36 to 50, 5'5" to 5'8", size 16 to 18 shapely, for dating, possibly more. Let's learn common interests over-coming winter months. **VM 773 994-3119 (12)**

SBP 37+, feminine, mature, intelligent, witty and attrac-

tive lesbian that is ISO SG feminine or soft butch for occasional conversation or possible dating if we connect. Race is not a factor. Please be at least 32 y/o, n/s, drug/disease free, also intelligent, mature, responsible, honest and fun loving. No Bi's or men, please. Please enjoy life, for it is not promised. **VM (312) 851-2784 (11)**

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World Wide Web

by Andrew
Davis

"Pod"-dy Heat

If you're giving your favorite gadget-lover a cool Christmas or Kwanzaa gift, you could hardly go wrong with the iPod.

This device is essentially a portable player, and a sweet one at that. It features a 5GB hard drive, a high-speed FireWire connection, and a simple yet powerful interface. The main drawback is that initially the item, which carries a somewhat hefty \$399 price tag, will be a Mac exclusive that's compatible only with OS versions 9.2 or 10.1.

Like other Apple products, the iPod is innovative in terms of design. The first thing that you notice when you pick it up is the stainless steel back, which contrasts with the white color of the clean front panel. Then, you notice the unit's size. The iPod is the smallest hard drive-based MP3 player available—about the size of a deck of cards. A large screen enables you to see the simple menu structure easily, and everything's a snap to find. Then, there is the scroll wheel used to navigate the menus. When holding the device in one hand, it's possible to move through every song, album, or playlist in mere seconds. Unlike other jog dials or button navigation systems, the scroll wheel accelerates as you turn it, allowing for the kind of maneuvering that's necessary to rapidly peruse 5GB worth of MP3s (about 1,000 songs [!]).

You won't find a voice recorder, PIM functionality, a car adapter, an equalizer, or a carrying case in the box. Digital music fans can handle all of these omissions except for one: support for Windows (or Linux, for that matter). Apple CEO Steve Jobs has discussed adding compatibility with other operating systems, but for the immediate future, this device is only for people running Mac OS 9.2 or 10.1. Out of deference to copyright owners, you

cannot port MP3s from one Mac to another. However, you can use the devices as a portable FireWire hard drive and store more than just music files.

There has been speculation that \$400 is too much to pay for an MP3 player, and this will undoubtedly hold true for some folks. But the fact is that most hard drive-based players are priced in this range. Moreover, none of them comes close to matching the iPod's design, small size, ease of use, or file-transfer speeds.

Source: CNET.com

Sites of the Month:

1. Do you think you're all that and a can of Pringles? Do you feel that you have what it takes to follow in the footsteps of Iman, Alek, and Tyson? Well, sashay on over to BlackModels.Net. Read profiles of photographers, agencies, and models (older? I mean, experienced and new). Hopefully, you'll discover what you need to know to walk down those Parisian runways. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to "read" the profiles of the male models?

2. It's the end of the year and you know what that means—Kwanzaa's around the corner. Log on to the Celebrate Kwanzaa page (www.kwanzaahouse.com/celebrat.html) and find out everything you want and need to know about the seven-day event. There's even a dictionary that defines Kwanzaa-related terms such as Nia (the fifth purpose of Kwanzaa, meaning "purpose") and zawadi (gifts given during the celebration). Now, my vocabulary of African words has officially been expanded to two words.

3. Speaking of Africa, don't forget to hop on over to the Museum of Contemporary Art and check out two exhibits. The first is "The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994" (which is there until Dec. 30) and the second involves the stunning works of South African artist William Kentridge (which is around 'til Jan. 20). Log on to the museum's site (www.mcchicago.org) for more details.

I'm at turn_it_up@hotmail.com.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St.	773-667-6454
CLUB INTIMUS	312-901-1703
COZY CAT PRODUCTIONS, W.D call for parties	312-941-3763
EXECUTIVE SWEET 7345 S. Luella 60649; call for party info	
p.mccombs@worldnet.att.net	773-375-7144
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4	773-363-8555
KC PRODUCTIONS, EAST OF THE RYAN	
914 E. 79th St.	773-386-5700
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston,	
MW,D, TheRails@aol.com	708-802-1705

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

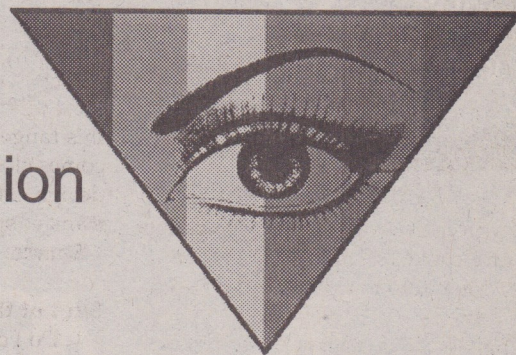
BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S	773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan, S/G, WM, 11a-2a/3a Sa	773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST/BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R	773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark	773-728-0050
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc	773-325-2233
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D	773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4	773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B	773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE	312-409-0276
1700 W. Farragut, one block north of Foster	
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe	773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V	773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D	773-327-7711
STAR GAZE 5419 N. Clark, M,W,R,D,E	773-561-7363
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,	
(5a Fri/Sat)	847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club	773-529-0321
Adodi African-American men	312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center	
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649	773-324-0377
A Real Read—African-American Lesbian/Trans Performers	
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread	312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub/Windy City Times	
1115 W. Belmont, #2-D, 60657 (FAX 773-871-7609)	773-871-7610
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com	
P.O. Box 496024, Chicago 60649	
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)	
Programming	773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent	773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,	
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181	312-409-4917
Chicago Black Pride	773-731-8665
chicagofri@aol.com , 7836 S. Kingston Ave., 60649	
Chicago Friends Community Service Network	
7836 S. Kingston Ave., 60649	773-731-3392
Afric.Amer. men single-parent support & young adult mentors	
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178	773-778-3030
Black lesbian/gay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany	
EXECUTIVE SWEET 7345 S. Luella 60649; call for party info	
p.mccombs@worldnet.att.net	773-375-7144
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent	773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, 4549 W. Washington 60624	
Fax (773) 287-9860	773-287-3263
Harambe Wellness Center	773-388-1600
Harambe Jahard Suburban	
Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen	708-492-2055
Horizons Community Services	773-929-HELP
Anti-Violence Project: Horizons/24 hrs	773-871-CARE
Howard Brown Health Center	773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men	773-334-7059
meets Ann Sather's, 929 Belmont	
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band	773-381-6693
Lesbian Community Cancer Project	773-561-4662
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box	
408922, 60640-8922	312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928	
1346 S. Michigan	312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum	202-483-6786
Oak Park Area Women's Drum Circle	708-763-0991
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613	
Roseland Community Hospital	773-995-6469
Southside Coalition 10420 S. Halsted, HIV	773-445-9520
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support	773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois	847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support	800-805-4052
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd	773-878-7839
Windy City Black Pride	312-986-0661 x31
1346 S. Michigan, windycitybp@yahoo.com	
Women of All Colors Together	773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120

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- ★ Strives to empower personal development and integrity.
- ★ Provides a trans-safe environment for pursuing common social and personal goals



Photo by Israel Wright

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